

School Uniforms

The school's student uniform program will be subject to the following requirements:

Uniform Selection

1. Student uniform selection will be made by the principal, in consultation with a committee comprised of staff, parents, students and others as deemed appropriate by the principal;
2. All student uniform selection decisions shall give due consideration to:
 - a. Styles and colors;
 - b. Requirements for sweaters, jackets/outer garments;
 - c. Optional articles of attire, if any;
 - d. Uniform availability; and
 - e. The potential cost to parents.

Communications

1. The principal will be responsible for communicating student uniform information through such means as district newsletters, local media, registrations materials and/or student-parent handbooks.
2. Information will include:
 - a. Expectations, rationale and benefits of the school uniform program;
 - b. School uniform requirements;
 - c. Vendors of uniform articles and prices, where possible;
 - d. The availability of financial assistance for families in need and procedures for applying for assistance;
 - e. Availability of recycled/used uniforms;
 - f. Waiver request procedures;
 - g. Casual or other special dress day exceptions to school uniform requirements.

Waiver Request

If the parent(s) or guardian desires to exempt his or her child from the uniform policy, the parent(s) or guardian must observe the follow procedure:

Request by mail or in person an Application for Exemption from Uniform Program (Application). The parent(s) or guardian may obtain an Application at the student's school site.

Complete the Application in full and submit it to the designated administrator for uniform program exemptions at the student's school.

Meet with the designated administrator to discuss the uniform policy and the nature of the parent(s) or guardian's objections to the policy. The purposes of this meeting include:

1. Ensuring that the parent(s) or guardian understand the reasons for and goals of the uniform policy;
2. Verifying the accuracy of the information on the Application;
3. Preventing fraud or misrepresentation.

Financial Considerations

1. Families in need of financial assistance for the purchase of school uniforms will be encouraged to contact the school.
2. The principal or designee will determine the form and type of assistance appropriate. Eligibility for free and reduced-price meals or other circumstances as deemed appropriate may be considered.
3. The principal will work with staff, school and community organizations and businesses to identify resources for assisting families in need.
4. A list will be compiled of those willing to assist and made available to families in need.

Disciplinary Action

1. No student shall be considered noncompliant with the school's uniform program when:
 - a. Noncompliance derives from financial hardship;
 - b. A student wears a uniform of a nationally recognized youth organization such as the Boy Scouts or the Girl Scouts on a regular meeting day;
 - c. Wearing a school uniform violates a student's religious belief;
 - d. A student's parent(s) has secured a waiver from the school uniform program by following the procedures established at the school.
2. If necessary, disciplinary action may be taken to encourage compliance with the school uniform program. Since the intent of the program is not to inhibit or prohibit any student who is not in uniform from receiving the education to which he/she is entitled, no student shall be suspended or expelled as a result of a violation of the Board's school uniform policy and/or regulation.
3. Prior to initiating any disciplinary action against a student not complying with the school uniform program, a conference with the student and his/her parent(s) will be held to solicit cooperation and support.
4. Disciplinary action is to be initiated only after all other means to secure support and cooperation have been used.